

THE STUDENT JOURNAL

HOPE COMMUNITY ACADEMY - ST. PAUL, MN

THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

- Homework
- Global Warming
- Cultural Dance
- School History
- Giving Thanks
- Teacher Spotlight



COUNTRIES THAT CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

by Titus and Isaiah

Christmas is a time of year where families get together with presents and food. This doesn't only happen in America, however; other countries celebrate Christmas.

We are going to take you on a tour of how other countries celebrate Christmas. In **Hong Kong**, there is a specific street where they sell Christmas trees and other plants. In **Egypt**, instead of the 25th of December they celebrate on January 7th. In **Germany**, instead of making one Christmas card they make 24 cards out of wreath or fir tree branches. In **China**, only about one percent of people are Christian so mostly no one knows anything about Christmas. In **Austria**, in the town square they set up tall trees like everywhere else but in their homes they only use gold and silver ornaments on their tree.

Mr Robertson said he celebrates Christmas by gathering up and opening gifts and eating food and watch TV.

Many Americans, especially Christians, will go to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Many churches have special Christmas carol services and events where the story of Christmas is told.

THANKSGIVING IS A TIME FOR REFLECTION

By: Ava Hang

Thanksgiving is known for blessings, thankfulness, eating and partying. Thanksgiving is on the fourth Thursday of November. It had originated as a harvesting festival. Thanksgiving was first celebrated in 1789 nationally in the United States. Some other countries who celebrate Thanksgiving are Canada, Japan, China, Germany, and Grenada. The Pilgrims were the first to celebrate Thanksgiving after their first harvest in October 1621, the feast has lasted three days and ninety Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims attended it.

Thanksgiving is important because for many individuals, Thanksgiving is one of the only times that extended families can come and celebrate together. It is said that when we say our thanks we're saying a prayer. We're expressing our gratitude to something or someone with love spiritually.



A few middle school students and teachers had the following to say about what they are thankful for this year:

"I am thankful for the clothes on me and a roof over my head."

"I am thankful for the good things in life."

"I am thankful for my husband, job, family, my good health, and so many more things."

"I am thankful for being pregnant with my baby."

"I am thankful for my life, the food, and my friends."

"I am thankful for my life and my family."

"I am thankful for my friends, family, and life. I'm thankful for the care and kindness I get each day."

"I am thankful for my friends, family, pets, and my wonderful students!"

"I am thankful for the trees that have given us its precious air"

I'm thankful for the emotions I feel, and my parents. I'm thankful for the memes, the animals and nature! The world has become toxic and wasteful so I hope now and in the future we can change our thoughts and rethink ideas for better and kinder ones. I hope Thanksgiving was great for you! Even if you don't celebrate it.

KAREN DANCE INSPIRES

By: Htee Hser, Eh Htee, Junebelle, Ywa Hay Say

Karen dance is important because it is part of tradition. There are different kinds of Karen dance, but we will talk about the don dance. The don dance is performed by groups and dancers and also accompanied by traditional instruments.

In the don dance, Don means agreement and the person who leads the dance is called don koh. The don dance originated from the Pwo Karen and they also originated other Karen dance. The Pwo Karen made the don dance because they wanted to reinforce community. But under military dictatorship it was used to glorify Burmese socialism for the musical expression of pride or Karen nationalism. Also it's performed in many celebrations. This is just the don dance but there are more than one Karen dance.



IS HOMEWORK NECESSARY?

By Nino

Homework is thought to be a necessity but some believe that it only makes students more busy. For example, while many think that homework helps practice and review, others think that homework takes away from social life and stops children from going outside. Mr. Robertson, a math teacher, believes that homework is necessary.

"I believe homework is necessary, but only to some extent that it is more practice from what we learned in the class. It doesn't make sense to send homework home for busy work. Believing that homework is repetition and practice, anywhere from 10-15 problems are enough for most students. Homework correction is mostly done in class by students so they can immediately see what they are doing wrong," he said.

Many students find homework troublesome but it can help you improve and practice.

PROS

Although homework is about 15% of your grade, there is good reason to keep doing it. I believe that what Mr. R said is true, people seem to remember things better if they keep fresh in their heads. I also believe that it gives children a sense of responsibility and teaches people how to be responsible and turn their work on time in the future. You can also use it to motivate students. For example, you can threaten that you'll get more homework if you don't pass the test or don't listen in class.

CONS

If homework is long, it takes away from other needs like social life and going outside. Homework can also cause stress and anxiety, some worse than others. Most people also just don't like homework in general.

CONCLUSION

Homework will probably be necessary for you but it differs from person to person. Even if you could do fine without homework, you should still do it because you'll go to detention if you don't.

GLOBAL WARMING HAS A FUTURE IMPACT

By: Kortez and Skylar

“Global warming happens when there is too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere,” said Mr. Sitek, middle school science teacher.

Mr. Xiong, middle school’s teaching assistant, thinks that how the Earth orbited forced Antarctica into snowy glaciers.

Global warming is a HUGE problem, It raises our ocean levels higher, which brings the risk of hurricanes higher. It is also melting Antarctica. According to the article 'Frozen Fossils' published by Scholastic Math, issued on January 14, 2019, “200 million years ago, Antarctica was a paradise. It had a warm climate, and the continent was covered with slow rivers and lush forests. Animals such as birds, amphibians, and dinosaurs roamed the lands.”

Scientists proved this by finding a dinosaur fossil.



HOPE HAS HISTORY

By Kalina & Annabella

“HOPE was founded and opened in the fall of 2000 at this very site,” said the school director, Ms. Vu.

Our school has been around for a long time now, and according to our math, that’s nearly 20 years.

“I was one of the original founders of HOPE Community Academy,” she said. “There was a group of Hmong educators, parents and community leaders who had the vision of creating the first Hmong school in the United States.”

This fact is pretty incredible if you think about it, we are all a part of history. A new section of HOPE was built over a nine month period, about 14 years ago.

“The original building is where the K-5 grade classrooms are located. We added the addition in 2005. The addition houses the middle school classrooms, media center, cafeteria, kitchen, and gymnasium,” Ms. Vu said.

We now have the new parts of HOPE that were built 14 years ago.





WHERE DID ALL THE HMONG FOOD GO?

By: Ta Due & Ler

As you may know, the Hmong food is gone in 2019-20 here at HOPE!

“Although these foods are delicious, these foods may not meet the state guidelines,” said Dr. Lee, the school principal. “I will speak to our food manager to see if we can modify our lunch menu a little bit to increase the varieties.”

This is encouraging news for those of us who enjoy this type of cuisine, our principal is really working hard to bring back our favorite foods.

Some examples of these types of foods are rice, sausage, pho, and noodles.

HMONG DANCE IS A SUCCESS

By Kylie Vang

Hmong Dance tells a story from movement. It helps the dancers and the audience to understand the Hmong culture more. Hmong Dance is something that involves a lot of hand movements. There are dances inspired by the Thai, Laos, and Chinese.

Our school had its own performance during the Hmong New Year Celebration on December 6, which was awesome!

Denise Vang, the dance coach, said “When I came on board, there was no Hmong Dancing. I decided to coach it to give other students the opportunity to experience our culture and do something that they enjoy.”

She also said “I love doing Hmong Dance, it's part of our culture and I enjoy sharing this with other students, so our traditions can keep growing. I hope that even after dancing atHOPE, students will continue on with it.”





TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MRS. STARK

By: Emilio & Hope

Mrs. Stark wanted to be an elementary teacher growing up, but then when she got into high school she realized she wanted to be a secondary teacher because she doesn't have patience for little kids. This is her 6th year teaching at HOPE, and she enjoys working here.

Before she came to HOPE, she worked at the Creative Child in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

She is pregnant and her baby girl is due January 26th, 2020.

"I'm nervous but mostly excited," she said.

One other thing that Mrs. Stark is responsible for is being in charge of the student government.

"Being in charge of student government has gone pretty well so far, even though it's our first year doing it and trying to figure out things out a bit," she said.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

By Ava Hang

Christmas is known for being the day of presents, the big person who wears a red suit and eats cookies and drink milk, the carol songs, praying, having fun, wishes, lights, trees, and family. Everyone is happy and having fun on that day. Kids are excited and laughing. It's the day Jesus was born.

Christmas started in the 1800s, and was celebrated by the protestant christians of Moravia, (the CZECH republic) in their settlements. In 1830, Christmas became popular. Christmas is celebrated on December 25th. It is important because the day celebrates the birth of the second blessed trinity, which had brought many blessings.

Santa Claus is a pretty famous common thing during the Christmas month. Santa was known for giving his wealth to the poor and sick. He saved 3 sisters from slavery by giving them a dowry to get married. He was soon known as a protector of children who would leave gifts throughout the year to brighten their spirits.

A few students and teachers had wished for a few things. Toumeng, a student from HOPE wanted anime stuff. Savannah had wished for snacks, big sweatshirts and led pencils.

Another student had wanted K-pop merchandise, and Phoenix had said she wished for a good and healthy life, good grades, and a few other things.

Rose wanted good-quality paintbrushes, oil paint, and another thing. These students are from HOPE, in sixth grade. Mrs. Sabby, who is an ELA teacher from HOPE, wished for kitty snuggles, shrimp pasta, and to see her family again.

